

Dublin, 18th of October, 1845

Dear Mrs. Chapman - In the absence of Richard, I am making up my packet for the American Mail - he left home early this week, but there are a few lines enclosed in this from him, in further explanation - he is now in Cork with our friends Douglass & Buffum who appear to be warmly received there so far as we have had news of their proceedings. I have just finished copying Mary Horwitt's article, as the receipt of the original M.S. would add 2/- more to the packet - but you shall have the M.S. (her own hand writing) in the bazaar box, it may be worth something as the autograph of a delightful woman & famous authoress. Nevertheless, her article is better suited to the pages of a Keepsake wreath or Bazaar than to your vigorous bell - her style is graceful (perhaps not finished enough) her thoughts, pure, excellent, womanly - but there is more beauty than strength - she touches the finer feelings of the heart, but she grapples with no principles such as you Jack the paint-killer, think nothing of struggling every day of your lives.

The Unitarians have gone over to Manchester for a few days; to see & be seen & heard at the Free-trade Bazaar now holding there - They too have more beauty than strength. But in a different way - they are strong against slavery, no compromise there - but liable to nervous depression & great oscillations of purpose - on the whole I fear they will not find their pecuniary expectations ~~so~~ realized here, but it is too soon to be discouraged & their old country is worth staying awhile to see. The fashionable season for such amusements has hardly commenced.

They are very interesting people, especially the 4 youngest, poetical, unworried, unworn beings, & dear little Abby is the sweetest of all & the stoutest hearted too. - Richard thinks that they are "probably received here by the public as could at all be expected, but he wishes they had more variety of songs & better chosen ones than some of them are - the Yankeeism or provincialism of some of their comic effusions, prevents their being appreciated as with you - they return to Dublin next week & give a concert on Monday the 27th.

We get a wonderful variety of people from your shores, every body is a class in himself, there don't seem to be so many cast in the same mould as with us. Perhaps this is only because we ~~come~~ more in contact with the living people who have dared to think for themselves.

No use in talking about how Rogers's case, & yet one cannot even think of America much less write to it, without recollecting him, - what he was & what he is - little changed I believe, except in that sad mistake & the bitter feelings which have flowed from it as from a poisoned spring - the want of straight forward honesty concerned in claiming the trape is lamentable; but I believe his perceptions were in some respects dimmed & ungratified & that he "knew not what he did" to

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Maria W. Chapman

25, Cornhill

Boston

U.S.A.

MS. A.9.2 v.21 p.73
the full extent - and I feel strong sympathy with his free meeting views - pardon the liberty
dear Mrs. Chapman, I have many a foolish notion in my head which Richard knows to his cost
sometimes (though I confess that whenever his views & mine differ, mine are wrong, I mostly find him
right in the end) But I do believe that freedom of speech, such as our children have
round our tables, is the natural right of all - of course, all should be subject to the restraints
of reason & conscience, freedom does not mean licentiousness - but where this is not the case,
the conscientious free meetingist, as the conscientious nonresistant, must endure for a time,
certain that truth & freedom will gain the day in the end

But ^{I believe that} Rogers has advocated a good cause, badly in some respects, nobly in others -
he is not a straightforward plain man, transparent as crystal, but he who runs may
read - he is full of crochets, & so you must take him - and you must not nail
him to any extravagant phrase or word that he may utter. He has said many
unpleasant things of you in Boston, but I know you are magnanimous to forgive that heart
bitter for you own sake & his, & you are more sorry for his faults than angry with him. And
thus I feel - poor Rogers, my heart goes out to him still & through all -
Wm. W. Webb
Goodbye, in haste for the post, with kindest regards -

Samuel Webb

Samuel Webb